

**REMARKS**

The present application has been amended in response to the Examiner's Office Action to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant, by the amendments presented above, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 14 and 15 because the claims were duplicates. Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled, therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,582,856 (Quek et al.). Applicant has amended the claims herein to further distinguish the present invention from that which is disclosed in Quek et al. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to specifically claim that at least one etch is sloped under the chrome pattern to enhance phase edge darkening effects. This is shown in Figure 3, image E, reference numeral 22. Similarly, claim 9 specifically claims the step of etching the quartz substrate under the chrome pattern to enhance phase edge darkening effects. While Quek et al. discloses etching notches, these notches are not under the chrome. Because claims 1 and 9, as amended, are distinguishable from that which is disclosed in Quek et al., Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 9, and those claims which depend therefrom, are allowable.

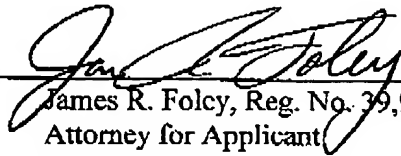
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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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